THE OSCAR RACE FINALLY ENDED

BUT HOW DID HOST NEIL PATRICK HARRIS DO? PAGES 17-18

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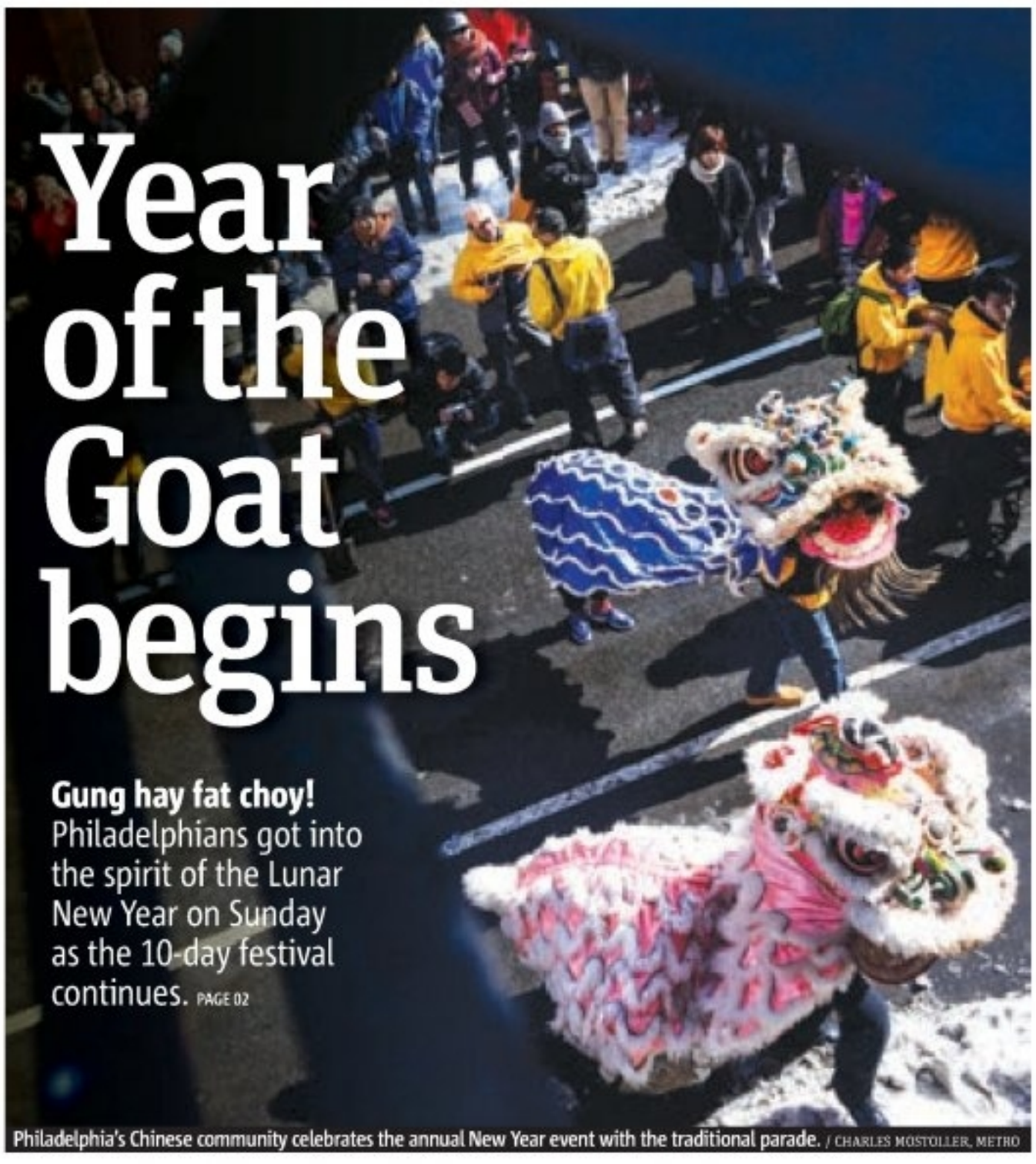
Year of the Goat begins



Gung hay fat choy! Philadelphians got into the spirit of the Lunar New Year on Sunday as the 10-day festival continues. PAGE 02

Philadelphia's Chinese community celebrates the annual New Year event with the traditional parade. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

New details in Tate-Brown shooting

PAGE 04

High heels are your new fix for back pain

PAGE 25

What will it take to fix the Eagles' secondary?

PAGE 30

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Year of the Goat begins with a bang

Philadelphia's Chinese community celebrated the Lunar New Year with the traditional Lion Dance parade in Chinatown on Sunday. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Chinese New Year. Chinatown hosted the traditional New Year's celebration with dancers, lions and fireworks.

The Chinese New Year started off with hundreds of members of Philadelphia's Chinese community and curiosity-seekers descending on Chinatown on Sunday for the traditional New Year's celebrations, replete with firecrackers and dancing dragons.

According to the traditional Chinese calendar, 2015 is the year of the sheep — which promises a year of prosperity, promise, kindness and benevolence.

But unlike other animals in the Chinese zodiac, there is some debate as to whether 2015 is the year of the sheep, the ram or the goat. The Chinese word for the zodiac, "yang," can be used to refer to all three animals.

People born in the year of the ram, sheep or goat are believed to be kind and popular, to love peace and to be helpful and trusting. METRO

Philadelphia

New Cezanne works discovered at the Barnes

Pencil and watercolor sketches by famed artist Paul Cezanne never known to exist before were discovered by Barnes Foundation conservators on the backs of two pieces belonging to the museum.

The new pieces will be displayed in an exhibition to open April 10 at the Barnes in Center City.

The pieces are not believed to have been seen since prior to 1921 when Albert Barnes bought the sketches.

Cezanne died in 1906. METRO

Gloucester County

Sick South Jersey K-9 euthanized

Judge, a seven-year veteran K-9 of the West Deptford Police Department, was euthanized Friday after suffering worsening symptoms from a disorder known as Cushing's Disease.

Judge worked in drug detection, tracking, and apprehending suspects on more than 280 calls, the department said in an obituary posted on their Facebook page.

"He was a true asset to our department and will be forever missed. RIP Judge, gone but never forgotten!" they wrote.

Judge worked cases that led to the arrests of 152 suspects, the seizure of $47,000 in currency from people involved in illegal activity, three motor vehicles, three handguns and "countless" amounts of drugs, the department said.

Nearly 100 police officers and K-9s saluted Judge during his final walk to a veterinary clinic. METRO

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Horsing around

Kids to name PD's new Clydesdale

The newest member of the New Castle County Police Department will get his new name from the kids he is sworn to serve and protect.

A five-year-old Clydesdale from Canada is new to the mounted cop division. North of the border, he was called Tyson, but in New Castle, they already have a Titan. The two names — Titan, Tyson — sound too much alike. So a contest was dreamt up.

Students in third through eighth grades are eligible to enter.

The contest ends March 9; Tyson's new name will be public on March 28. METRO

NEW CASTLE PD

Tate-Brown's mother: Video contradicts police version

Shooting. Calls for justice at a rally for Brandon Tate-Brown.

Activist Megan Malachi speaks to protesters where Brandon Tate-Brown died on the 6600 block of Frankford Avenue. / SAM NEWHOUSE, METRO

Under heavy snowfall, Tanya Brown-Dickerson told protesters outside the 15th District this weekend that video of her son's death does not show him running for a gun before he was shot.

"We knew, but we let it come out on its own," said Tate-Brown's sister Dominique Chappelle, 28. "It's very disturbing."

Police said during a traffic stop, Tate-Brown, 26, exited his car, but struggled with officers after they saw a gun in his car's center console.

They say he "forced his way back to his vehicle and attempted to retrieve the gun" when they fatally shot him in the head around 2:45 a.m. on Dec. 15.

According to Brown-Dickerson, the video shows a scuffle, but does not show Tate-Brown trying to get into the car to retrieve a gun when he was shot.

About 110 protesters met Saturday afternoon to march from where Tate-Brown was shot on the 6700 block of Frankford Avenue to the 2nd and 15th District station.

Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey let Brown-Dickerson and her lawyer view the footage to provide "closure," he told the Daily News last week. He maintained that the video does not contradict the police, citing eyewitness accounts.

Calls to release the tape mounted after police revealed last week that officers involved in the shooting had been cleared of departmental violations weeks ago. The shooting is still under review by the district attorney's office.

Brown-Dickerson's lawyer, Brian Mildenberg, has said he will ask the U.S. Department of Justice to review the tape.

"They won't release the tape because they say this can't be tried in the media and judged by the public," Chappelle said. "But the police was his judge and executioner."

Quote

"This is not about Ferguson [Missouri], this is not about Eric Garner, this is about police brutality, this is about a cover-up."

Protester Brianna White, 29

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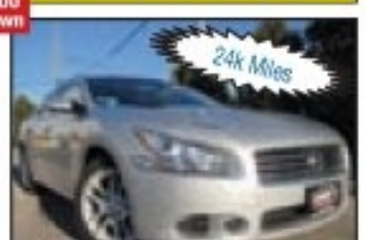

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Street talk

DAVE WARNER

METRO COLUMNIST/ VETERAN NEWSMAN

Dave Warner tackles Philadelphia metropolitan issues. Email Dave at EditExpress@verizon.net.

HAUNTED BY SPIRITS

Gifford Pinchot haunts Pennsylvania drinkers from the grave.

Pinchot, a teetotaling forester who became governor of Pennsylvania in 1923, was the architect of the bizarre liquor control system in our state — one that, by the way, deprived you of the ability to buy alcohol on Presidents Day — our stores were closed.

Pinchot crafted our state-controlled liquor monopoly in the waning days of Prohibition, in 1933, and he wanted to do everything he could to make it as hard as possible to buy alcohol in Pennsylvania.

It was he who pushed through what we've been living with ever since, the state Store system and government monopoly on liquor sales.

You can get a good sense of where his heart was from a 1933 piece he wrote for the Rotarian magazine, which includes the following point: "The saloon must not be allowed to come back."

And now, for the umpteenth time, our leaders in Harrisburg are about to do battle over the system.

Today, the Republicans in the House are expected to try to push a bill through committee that would set us on the road to privatization.

They tried that in 2013 too, but the state senate said no.

Now, the new governor, Tom Wolf, seems pretty resistant to this change too.

He favors the modernization of state stores, among other things.

The battle lines are clear.

So we remain mired in the system that Gifford wrought, like the fact that you go to one place for wine and liquor, a beer distributor for cases of beer, and a bar for a six pack.

People queue to buy alcohol. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Count yourself lucky that Pinchot's saloon aspiration didn't survive the ages.

There will be a quiz on this later, but we real Pennsylvanians have come to live with it, like we become accustomed to an ingrown toenail.

You kind of hate to suggest that anything is saner in New Jersey than it is in Penn's Woods. But a quick trip across the river would suggest that Jersey is more in line with most of western civilization on the booze front.

We walked into a hanger-size liquor store in Jersey the other day, just to size things up. If you live in nearby Pennsylvania, you've done it too, because way down deep in your soul you think its a heckuva lot cheaper there.

Indeed, a fellow in the know there told us that at least 50 percent of their customers are from Pennsylvania, even though he doesn't think his prices are much cheaper.

Actually, it's a mixed bag, according to our very unscientific survey. Jack Daniels, a best-seller in Pennsylvania, is about a buck cheaper here than in Jersey. But Capt. Morgan rum, also a top seller, is a good deal cheaper in Jersey.

What you can do there, though, is get the whole works. No stopping at three different places to get everything your party needs.

Thanks a bunch, Gifford.

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Five things you need to know

1 Homeland Security chief worried about mall threat

The U.S. Homeland Security chief said on Sunday he takes seriously an apparent threat by Somali-based Islamist militants against prominent shopping sites in the West including the Mall of America in Minnesota and urged people there to be careful.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson was reacting to a video attributed to al Shabaab appearing to call for attacks on Western shopping areas, specifically mentioning Mall of America, the West Edmonton Mall in Canada, London's Oxford Street and sites in Paris.

Mall of America in Minnesota / GETTY IMAGES

"This latest statement from al Shabaab reflects the new phase we've evolved to in the global terrorist threat, in that you have groups such as al Shabaab and ISIL publicly calling for independent actors in their homelands to carry out attacks," Johnson told the CNN program "State of the Union," using an acronym for the militant group Islamic State (or ISIS).

Asked about the threat to Mall of America, which is one of the world's largest shopping areas, Johnson said: "Anytime a terrorist organization calls for an attack on a specific place, we've got to take that seriously." He advised people going to the Mall of America to be particularly careful. **BLOOMBERG**

2 New defense secretary hosts gathering on ISIS strategy

New U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter is gathering top U.S. military commanders and diplomats for talks in Kuwait on Monday about the battle against Islamic State, as America's military effort approaches major hurdles in both Iraq and Syria.

Carter says he hopes the roughly six hours of largely unscripted discussions will help assess the war that he is inheriting after swearing-in on Tuesday as President Barack Obama's fourth defense secretary. **REUTERS**

CARTER/GETTY IMAGES

3 Bangladesh ferry capsizes after collision, 39 dead

At least 39 people died in Bangladesh on Sunday when a passenger ferry capsized after colliding with a trawler on the river Padma with more than 100 people aboard.

Rescuers managed to save at least 50 passengers and were still searching for more survivors, regional police official Bidhan Tripura told Reuters.

More than half of the bodies retrieved so far from the water, have been women and children, Tripura said. **REUTERS**

4 Smoke in DC subway again

A mechanical failure on a Washington, D.C., subway train caused smoke to fill a station stop on Sunday, the third such incident in two days, according to officials.

L'Enfant Plaza station briefly filled with smoke after a mechanical issue.

On Saturday evening, firefighters responded to a report of smoke and fire on a train line connecting Washington's Foggy Bottom station to a stop in Rosslyn, Virginia. The fire was caused by problems with system's electrified third rail.

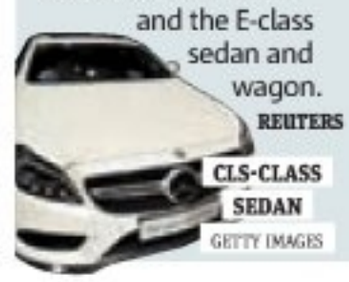
Earlier on Saturday, passengers riding another train were evacuated after faulty brakes caused smoke to fill Woodley Park Metro station, officials said. **REUTERS**

5 Mercedes recalls 147,000 cars in US for engine fire risk

Mercedes-Benz is recalling more than 147,000 mid-size sedans and station wagons from 2013-2015 to check for risk of engine fires, the U.S. safety regulator said.

The cars have a rubber seal in the engine compartment that can fall onto the exhaust system, increasing the risk of an under-hood fire, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Among the cars being recalled are versions of the CLS-class sedan and the E-class sedan and wagon. **REUTERS**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Willacy County

Hundreds of inmates relocated after Texas prison uprising

More than 300 inmates from a Texas federal prison damaged in an uprising on Friday were relocated on Sunday and hundreds more will be moved later in the day, said a private contractor who operates the prison.

The inmates at the Willacy County Correctional Center in Raymondville, Texas, are being transferred to other U.S. Bureau of Prisons facilities in a process that will continue next week, said Issa Arnita, spokesman for Management & Training Corporation.

Damages to the prison will be assessed when the inmates are gone so that repairs can begin, Arnita said. "Initial assessments indicate significant damage to the plumbing and heating and cooling systems," he said.

The prison, about 40 miles from the Mexican border, primarily holds people who have entered the United States illegally.

The unrest began on Friday when prisoners refused to come to breakfast or report for work to protest problems with medical services at the facility. REUTERS

Quoted

"Inmates continue to be fully cooperative with the relocation efforts."

Arnita

Ex-cop kills daughters, pets — and himself

Alissa and Deanna Hochman were killed by their suicidal dad in Harrison, New York. / FACEBOOK

Investigation.
Cops have yet to say whether Glen Hochman used a gun or other means for the slayings.

A Westchester County, New York, community stood shaken to its core Sunday after a retired White Plains cop killed two of his three daughters, then took his own life, authorities said.

Cops found Glen Hochman, 52; his daughters Alissa, 17, and Deanna, 13; and the family's two dogs all dead inside their home in Harrison, New York, around 4 p.m. Saturday.

More cop cars, and the dreaded Coroner's Office van, converged on the snow-covered neighborhood in New York City's suburbs.

Word quickly spread.

And neighbors, friends and village leaders are now worried the tragedy will weigh on the sisters' pals and other kids in Harrison.

How do you explain why a 52-year-old officer with an unblemished record and a recent honor for performing CPR and saving a life would do something so dastardly to the raven-haired teens, who over and over again were described by neighbors as "sweet girls."

There were unconfirmed reports that Hochman and his wife were having marital troubles. Anamarie DiPietro-Hochman, 50, was not home for the horror inside the residence. She, and the couple's eldest daughter, Samantha, 22, were away but called neighbors worried when no one picked up the phone.

Schools Superintendent Lou Wool, noting the sorrow of losing the school girls to such "incomprehensible tragedy," ordered the doors of Harrison High School, where Alissa was a senior, be open Sunday at noon to make counselors and school officials "available to assist students and families."

Back at the home, neighbors continued shaking their heads in disbelief and grief.

"She was an absolutely adorable, sweet girl," Howard Hollander said of Alissa, who he told The Journal-News recently was working at Powell Catering in Harrison and recently learned to drive on the streets where she grew up and died. METRO

Quoted

"They were both sweet girls." And their dad? "Always friendly."

Hollander

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Did You Know?

In winter, dangerous conditions caused by snow and ice become a great risk.

Property Owners are responsible for exercising "reasonable care" for keeping their sidewalks safe.

If you are injured as a result of a slip-and-fall on snow or ice, you may be entitled to money damages for your injuries. Your ability to obtain fair compensation for your injuries depends upon the specific conditions where you fell.

In Pennsylvania, property owners are responsible for injuries when they allow snow and ice to accumulate. If slippery conditions were caused by melting and refreezing snow or ice, the property owner may be responsible.

If you fall on snow or ice, it is **critical** to capture evidence of the condition of the area. It is also important to document how long before your accident the snow or ice began falling. This information will be essential in proving your case and getting you the fair compensation you deserve.

As the weather gets colder and the snow starts to fall, be careful as you walk. If you fall on snow or ice, make sure to gather the evidence!

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Kerry and Iran's Zarif meet in nuclear talks

Secretary of State John Kerry arrives at his hotel in Geneva. / GETTY IMAGES

Talks. They took place behind closed doors with no customary photo opportunity for journalists.

Secretary of State John Kerry and his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif met for two hours in Geneva on Sunday in another round of nuclear talks to try to narrow gaps as they pressed against a March 31 deadline to reach a political agreement.

The meeting included for the first time Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz and Iran's nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi, who spent most of the day separately negotiating technical details of curbing Iran's nuclear program.

The talks are set to resume on Monday before Kerry returns to Washington in time to testify before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday on the State Department's 2016 budget request.

Zarif told Iranian state media that midlevel bilateral talks had produced "good discussions but no agreements," and some differences remained.

"The fundamental gap, in my view, is psychological. Some Western countries, the United States in particular, see sanctions as an asset, a lever to exert pressure on Iran. As long as this thinking persists it will be very hard, difficult to reach a settlement."

Zarif said the inclusion of Moniz and Salehi reflected a need "for higher level people with all-embracing command over all issues."

The presence of a close aide and the brother of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Hossein Fereydoon, meant better "coordination with the president," he added. REUTERS

Quoted

"There is still a distance to travel."
Kerry

Unrest

Ukraine fears spread of war after blast in eastern city

Ukraine said on Sunday it feared unrest could spread beyond territory held by pro-Russian separatists, after an explosion killed two people at a memorial rally in an eastern city far from the front line.

A week after a cease-fire agreement that Moscow-backed rebels ignored to capture a strategic town, Germany and France mediated the peace deal that came into effect a week ago, and say they still hope it can be resurrected, even though the rebels ignored it to inflict one of the worst defeats of the war, seizing the town of Debaltseve after encircling thousands of Ukrainian troops.

In signs that there may be at least a pause now that the rebels achieved that objective, government and separatist forces exchanged prisoners overnight. REUTERS

Arrested

4

Kiev said it arrested four people who had been armed and trained in Russia after the blast, which killed a policeman and a demonstrator at the rally in Kharkiv, the biggest city in the east, 125 miles from the war zone.

Kiev and its Western allies are trying to determine whether the separatists will now halt, or advance deeper into territory the Kremlin calls "New Russia."

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					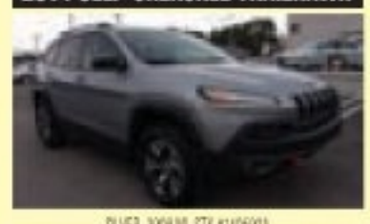
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Legal haze. DC pot users face questions as deadline expires

Marijuana advocates' hopes that the U.S. capital would easily follow in the footsteps of Denver or Seattle in clearing the way for lawful pot use are set to go up in smoke this week.

Voters in the District of Columbia last year passed a measure clearing the way for pot possession, but members of Congress have used their power over the city to prevent local officials from coming up with any plan to let the drug be sold legally for recreational purposes.

With the congressional review period for the new measure set to expire on Wednesday, District of Columbia pot users will be left in a murkier position than those in Colorado and Washington state.

The uncertainty stems from Initiative 71, a referendum approved by 65 percent of District voters in November. A key argument by supporters was that marijuana laws unfairly victimized black people in Washington, who represent about half the city's population.

Initiative 71 allows possession of up to two ounces of marijuana and six pot plants, three of them mature. It allows the gift of up to one ounce of pot, but no provision for sales. REUTERS

Local market

$130M

District finance officials have estimated the local market, including medical marijuana, could be worth $130 million a year.

Magic Kingdom one-day passes breach $100 mark

Record highs. Disney blew past Wall Street estimates when it released quarterly results earlier this month.

Statues of Walt Disney and Mickey Mouse at the entrance to the Magic Kingdom at Disney World / GETTY IMAGES

A one-day ticket to the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World in Orlando jumped on Sunday to $105 from $99, an increase that likely makes the Florida family attraction the first in the industry to breach the $100 psychological barrier.

All other Walt Disney Co parks in Orlando and California increased prices for one-day, one-park admission, but they remained slightly below $100. Disneyland and Disney California now cost $99 while Orlando's Epcot, Animal Kingdom and Hollywood Studios cost $97. Taxes are extra for all tickets.

John Gerner, managing partner of Leisure Business Advisors, said he was not surprised that Disney chose the Magic Kingdom to test triple-digit pricing.

Gerner said he knows of no other U.S. theme park with ticket prices over $100.

Disney did not immediately return a call from Reuters but provided a prepared statement to the Orlando Sentinel.

"A day at a Disney park is unlike any other in the world, and there is strong demand for our attractions and entertainment," spokesman Bryan Maleniius wrote to the newspaper. REUTERS

Quoted

"In the minds of a lot of theme park enthusiasts, especially those who love Disney, it is seen as being essentially priceless." Gerner

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Frozen falls create dramatic nature display

The American side of the Niagara Falls is almost completely frozen after a prolonged period of extreme cold in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. Much of the United States and Canada are experiencing unusually cold weather with record low temperatures along with wind chill factors making it feel well below freezing. / GETTY IMAGES

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Questions to ask while looking at charter schools

Education. Keep these tips in mind as you start your search.

As parents consider their options for the upcoming school year, many may be wondering how to best assess the different charter schools they visit.

"Because so much has changed [in recent years] and because all of these changes are happening at once, it can be hard to know what to look for," says Scott Farber, the founder of A-List Education, a tutoring and test-prep educational services provider that works with schools and after-school programs across the East Coast.

"I think the point of charter schools is that it should be a place where you can experiment with new ideas … and come up with a better way of doing things," he adds.

Farber says parents who are considering charters should ask these questions during their visits.

How big are the classes?

"Class size matters," says Farber. "One of the misconceptions is that charter schools always have smaller classes. Ask what the faculty-to-student ratio will be."

Farber notes that some of the core classes might also be different at various charter schools, so it's important to ask about requirements as well.

How do the teachers factor in?

"Both my parents were teachers for decades," says Farber. "There are lots of teachers that are drawn to charter schools because they are given the freedom to do different things. They also usually have a younger teaching staff, and that might be better in some ways, too."

Remember to ask about class sizes and student-teacher ratios. / ISTOCK

What kinds of activities are available?

"I'd also ask, 'What sort of [extracurriculars] do they have?' A lot of students in charter schools attend school for longer," both in terms of the length of the school day and the structure of the school year, Farber notes.

Be informed

Ask for concrete data

"What kind of performance have they seen in the past?" he asks. "For high schools, it's graduation rates and college acceptance rates. It's very useful to ask for data on the younger grades' performance, too."

It's important, he adds, to know as much as possible about the school's administration. "Who is doing the management?" he wonders.

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Not everything is awesome for NPH

Ceremonies. The Academy Awards somehow conquered a seasoned awards-host regular.

Neil Patrick Harris was unaccountably so-so at this year's Oscar ceremony. / GETTY IMAGES

How much of a mess are the Academy Awards? Not even Neil Patrick Harris — the guy who kills at the Tonys and Emmys — could conquer them. He was to be the second safe choice in a row, after last year's Ellen DeGeneres show. Sometimes the Oscars think outside the box and pay the price: Seth MacFarlane singing about boobs in 2013; the dynamic duo of a dazed, noncommittal James Franco and an energy-pill-high Anne Hathaway in 2011.

It all started so well. Harris took the stage of Los Angeles' Dolby Theatre for his first Oscars gig and immediately addressed the biggest elephant in the room. "Tonight we celebrate the best and whitest — sorry, best and brightest," he quipped, winkingly referring to the heavy snubbing that befell "Selma."

But this was a false start. Savage quips were immediately replaced — as in the next sentence — by singing. Harris launched into one of those songs that Billy Crystal used to do, except only about a third of it was dedicated to jokes. Singing about "moving pictures," he offered a sloppy valentine to the medium he's shilling for at this awards show, at least. Harris inserted himself into movies, most of them old — say, blocking Sharon Stone's business from "Basic Instinct" — but also the night's only feted musical, "Into the Woods."

Speaking of which, he was soon joined by Anna Kendrick, as well as Jack Black, who offered the position that maybe movies are crap. The Oscars do this every now and then: addressing that maybe the ceremony — and maybe even movies themselves — are irrelevant. And as usual, it had no real answers — just a flashy song-and-dance number performed by one of entertainment's brightest lights.

Harris' best moment was a seemingly improvised bit of silliness when he did a song and dance following J.K. Simmons' earnest plea for everyone to call their parents during his acceptance speech for "Whiplash." **MATT PRIGGE**

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Brief takes

The night's weirdest moments

On the red carpet, Dakota Johnson got peeved with her date, her mom Melanie Griffith, who said she had still not seen "Fifty Shades of Grey" because you know why. Apparently Griffith is the only one who hasn't heard its sex scenes are limp.

The night's breakout star might be "Ida" director Pawel Pawlikowski, who got the intrusive orchestra to shut up during his speech for the film's Oscar win.

2 CULTURE

The winners

Best Supporting Actor
J.K. Simmons, "Whiplash"

Costume Design
"The Grand Budapest Hotel"

Makeup and Hair Styling
"The Grand Budapest Hotel"

Foreign-Language Film
"Ida"

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And the winners are ...

Hollywood's finest saved their best red carpet looks for the Oscars. Here's who won the night's most-important award. **TINA CHADHA**

1 **Dakota Johnson** paired her fiery red **Saint Laurent** gown with a messy ponytail. How Anastasia Steele of her.

2 **Margot Robbie** channeled '70s glam in **Saint Laurent.** The "Wolf of Wall Street" star joked her **Van Cleef & Arpels** necklace was "worth more than her life.

3 Why wear a pearl necklace when you can show up draped in one? **Lupita Nyong'o'** showed up in custom **Calvin Klein Collection**.

4 All we have to say is custom **Chanel**: slow clap for **Julianne Moore.**

5 Rosamund Pike, in red hot **Givenchy**, showed up to win.

6 Understated elegance paired with some big hair. Perfect. **Reese Witherspoon** in **Tom Ford**.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The Breakthrough: Carlos Pratts

Carlos Pratts, second from the left, plays a Hispanic high schooler who begins training with Kevin Costner to become a cross-country racer in the new film "McFarland, USA." / GETTY IMAGES

Interview. Get to know the young star of "McFarland, USA."

The performance that inspired him to become an actor:
"Friday Night Lights." I played football in high school, and the high school story was the exact same. I remember finding acting and seeing that movie and the way that it made me feel — I just knew that this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. And I'm from Texas, so it really hit home.

Perk of being famous he's looking forward to most:
Getting my mom the dresses that she wants.

Who was his first celebrity crush:
There were so many. I think they all just kind of came at once. I don't know if I can pick just one. Um … Topanga from "Boy Meets World."

Biggest audition blunder:
I'm not going to say any names, but there's a show, and they were really interested in me for a pretty good-sized role. The day before I was going to read for the producers, I'm in the car and this lady rear-ends me. I get out of the car and, at least in my mind, it was, "Are you OK?" with a smiley face. Apparently I came off like the Kraken. It wasn't a very friendly exchange, and we'll just leave it at that. The next day, I get into the audition, and she's sitting there, right in the room. She's one of the producers. And she goes, "I know you." Needless to say, I didn't get the part.

In his downtime

Ideal Saturday night:
Obviously, there's so many ways to go about it, but I love if I can just go to the gym, play some basketball with my roommates, and then after that, maybe see a movie or just have a chill night playing "Mario Kart." I'm a "Mario Kart" freak. I'm a master with the green shells. And I'm not going to lie, I'm a "Friends" fiend, so I'll throw on some Netflix. I've already seen all the seasons of "Friends" on Netflix probably twice, and it's only been a month and a half.

Last thing he Googled:
I'm not going to lie, "McFarland, USA." I wanted to know what people are saying. [Laughs]

Last book he read:
I have to admit it's been awhile since I read a book, but probably the last thing I read was "The Artist's Way."

Favorite person to follow on Instagram or Twitter:
My 9-year-old little brother, Luis Benjamin Pratts. Follow him, get him some followers.

Dream role:
Honestly, this is a long shot, but I'd love to be a superhero one day. As a matter of fact, what I first wanted to be when I was growing up was a Ninja Turtle. I thought that was a real profession — that I could do it, that I could survive in the sewers. But a superhero would be awesome one day.

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Mae Whitman takes on Hollywood's 'DUFF' problem

Film. The "Parenthood" actress heads back to high school with "The DUFF."

Former "Arrested Development" and "Parenthood" star Mae Whitman heads back to high school for the smart and snarky "The DUFF," playing a whip-smart senior who realizes she falls into the classification of her clique's Designated Ugly Fat Friend.

Mae Whitman isn't really into the whole makeover thing in "The DUFF." / CBS FILMS

What do you think of the concept of the DUFF, which is actually probably not exclusive to teenagers?

I mean, to me, it's definitely not. I really liked this because I felt like I related to it in pretty much every aspect of my life. I definitely was bullied in high school, and I still sort of feel like I tend to get categorized in Hollywood.

This might not be a totally new concept, but it's very easy to compare high school to Hollywood.

Oh, absolutely. It's not always the easiest to escape it. It's human nature. ... Especially when people feel threatened by something they don't understand, they tend to try to keep it down or put labels on it.

What are some of the frustrations you've experienced in Hollywood?

I try to stay as true as I can to my intuition and not really let a lot of the other stuff get in. I have been working for a long time, since I was a little kid. I remember, early on, my dad being like, "Do not take it personally, whatever you do." It really feels personal because you're putting yourself out there.

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Ann Veal

Her?

Whitman still gets people coming up to her and referencing Ann, her famous "Arrested Development" character. But she doesn't mind.

"It happens all the time. I'm so honored that I got to be a part of that show," she says. "I adored her. She was so interesting. She had this really pervy, throbbing energy underneath. When you choose projects that you love, then every interaction that you have about people appreciating those things is really pleasant."

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*National Research Council. (2003) Elder mistreatment: Abuse, neglect and exploitation in an aging America. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press

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Playing pretend with 'The Illusionists'

Tricks. Dan Sperry's brand of magic isn't for everyone.

When Dan Sperry did a magic act on "America's Got Talent," there were no top hats or playing cards in sight. Instead, in one of the most re-watched segments in the reality competition's history, Sperry chewed up a Lifesaver, appeared to thread floss back and forth through the skin of his throat, and then pulled out the floss with an intact Lifesaver hanging on it — before tossing it to show judge/noted germophobe Howie Mandel.

It wasn't for the faint of heart.

Sperry, who's billed as the Anti-Conjurer, is part of the internationally touring show "The Illusionists: Witness the Impossible," coming to the Academy of Music tomorrow after a Broadway run.

But his act isn't all for the shock value, Sperry stresses. "I want to give the viewer a feeling of wonder and amazement — not just do a cheap gimmick to get a reaction."

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"I did work at Hot Topic when I was younger," Sperry says, talking about his look. "They hired me on the spot — didn't even have an interview." / JOAN MARCUS

What you'll see

The show

"The Illusionists" features seven very different performers: the Anti-Conjurer, the Manipulator, the Trickster, the Escapologist, the Inventor and the Warrior.

They collaborate with each other onstage, backed by a live band along with pyrotechnics, fog, lights and lasers. And of course, there's audience participation — for the brave.

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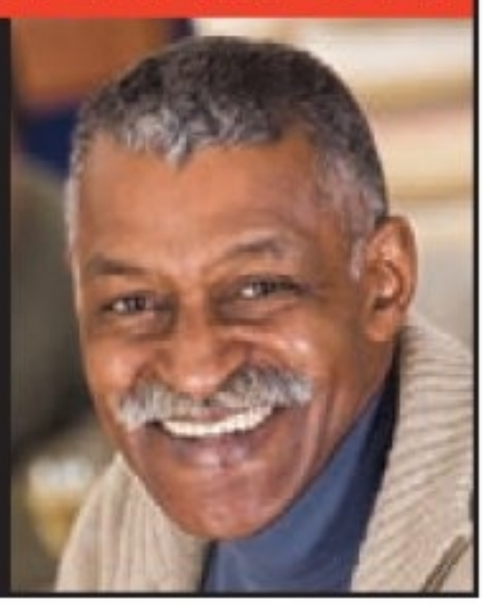

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1 Reality stars unhurt in multi-Kardashian pileup

Things got a bit hairy for the Kardashian family during their Montana vacation when an SUV carrying Kim and Khloe Kardashian, Kylie Jenner and baby North West skidded across an icy highway and into oncoming traffic before landing in a ditch at the side of the road, according to TMZ. The frightening mishap occurred after a passing tractor trailer dumped snow on the windshield, obscuring the view of Khloe, who was driving and swerved onto a patch of black ice. There was no damage to the vehicle and all the passengers were fine, if shaken. Kim was quick to post an Instagram of the snowy wilderness celebrating their good fortune. "Thank you God for watching over us and keeping us safe," she wrote.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

2 Amber Rose has more to say about Kanye

Amber Rose's feud with ex-beau Kanye West continues, this time with Rose striking back at West after he trashed her during a recent interview. "I had to take 30 showers before I got with Kim [Kardashian]," West said. "If Kim had dated me when I wanted, there would be no Amber Rose." But there is in fact an Amber Rose, and she's decided to make Kardashian's dubious rise to fame a focus of her retaliation. "Wait, 30 showers? But Kim let Ray J nut on her," she tweeted. Ouch. "I'm always so quiet and just a cool, fun girl. The funny thing is I'm all for a woman making something out of nothing."

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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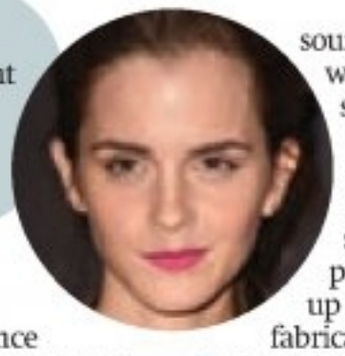
3 Emma Watson weathers Prince Harry dating rumors



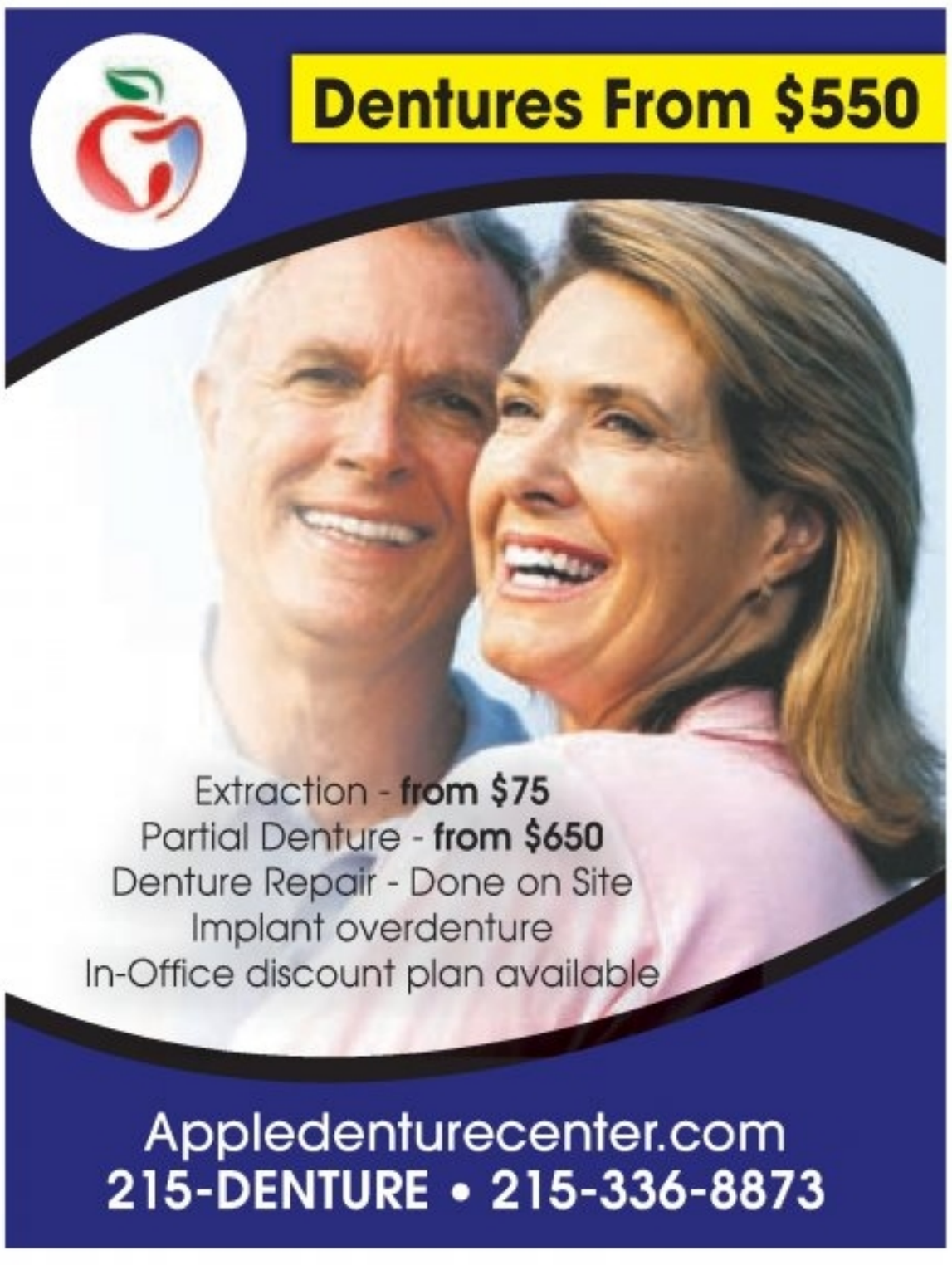
The Internet rumor mill went into a fever pitch over the weekend over talk of "Harry Potter" star Emma Watson possibly dating Prince Harry. Because, you know, they're British. Actually, the two "are perfect for each other," an overeager source tells Hollywood Life. "They share the same wicked sense of humor." They also share the propensity to wind up in completely fabricated gossip items. Things got so bad Watson herself had to take to Twitter to calm everyone down.

Daily video

'Big Birdman' will haunt your dreams

THE WATERCOOLER, YOUTUBE

"Sesame Street" mainstay Big Bird and the puppeteer who brings him to life, Caroll Spinney, star in this delightful yet unnerving spoof of "Birdman," featuring Spinney in his New York dressing room being tormented by his giant yellow alter ego. "Maybe we should've done that Raymond Carver play," the Big Bird in his head asks, and honestly, it would've been awesome to see that.



Digging up ancient tombs

Exhibit. Penn Museum's "Beneath the Surface" explores a 75-year-old excavation.

This excavated emerald pendant is from ca. 700-900 CE. / PENN MUSEUM

The Rio Grande Cocle in Panama flooded in 1927, scattering gold beads along the river's banks. The flooding revealed an ancient cemetery that had lain undisturbed for more than a thousand years, hidden from looters who might have ravaged the site in search of gold and artifacts.

In the spring of 1940, a Penn Museum team spent three months excavating the site, known as Sitio Conte. That excursion and its findings are the subject of the Penn Museum's "Beneath the Surface: Life, Death, and Gold in Ancient Panama." The exhibit's visual highlights are spectacular gold ornaments, plaques and pendants, most decorated with vivid animal-human motifs. But "Beneath the Surface" aims to look past the glittering jewels to the people who created them.

"This material is really well-known in the archaeological world and in public museums because exhibitions of the gold from this collection have traveled across the world," said Dan Rahimi, Penn Museum's executive director of galleries. "But the curators of this museum have looked deeper at this material to develop an exhibition that tells the story of life 1,000 years ago in that part of Panama. It talks about art and religious belief, technology and daily life, and really begins to get at the fuller understanding of how people lived."

The little-known Cocle people flourished from about 700 to 900 CE, but have largely faded from history.

Surprises

Burial sites

The centerpiece is a representation of "Burial 11," the burial site that yielded the excavation's most remarkable artifacts. The items are placed in the same positions in which they were found, providing insight into the process.

Georgia Athanasopulos, Consul General of Panama in Philadelphia, quoted a saying from her native country: "The one who looks, finds." She compared Sitio Conte to Egypt's famed Valley of the Kings, with one important distinction. "In Egypt, most of the tombs have been opened. Here, they should still be full of surprises."

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Kim Schneiderman's book "Step Out of Your Story: Writing Exercises to Reframe and Transform Your Life," is due to be published in the spring. Email Kim your questions at askkim@metro.us.

PLUS

The problem

Every time I go on Facebook or Instagram, it seems like someone my age (32) is getting married, having a baby or enjoying a tropical vacation I can't afford, and it's making me really depressed.

Sounds like you're suffering from an acute case of "not measuring up." While not an official diagnosis, this modern malady nonetheless afflicts many people who, like you, fear they are not as accomplished, happy or fulfilled as their peers.

Social media is partly to blame. At no other time in history have we been more aware of just how "everyone" else seems to be living a better life than us. Most people don't post sad, gloomy pictures; you see sunbathing on the beach, not arguments at the restaurant. Studies have shown that we tend to overestimate others' happiness — we can't know the real thoughts and feelings behind the grins, so we take their smiles at face value.

It's far more constructive to compare yourself to who you were a year ago and assess whether you're growing happier, more peaceful and confident. Envy is a huge energy zapper. When you focus your thoughts on what you lack instead of what you have and accomplished, you're draining yourself of precious resources that could be helping you achieve the things you wish you had. Try the visualization exercise below that I use to help clients with envy. Then let the remainder of envious, hurtful thoughts roll down your body like water and into the gutter, where they belong.

Social media is curated to share the feelings people want to — and the tropics are just more photogenic than the office. / ISTOCK

Visualization exercise

1 Find a comfortable seated position and take a couple of deep breaths to settle into your body. Next, allow your envy to take over, imagining all the ways you are not measuring up.

2 Once you've exhausted your envious thoughts, take a moment to notice how your body feels. Notice areas of tightness or tension like the stomach, neck and chest.

3 Now, take a couple of deep, centering breaths to release the tension. Focus your attention on your breath, perhaps thinking "breathing in" on inhale and "breathing out" on exhale.

4 Close your eyes and focus on three things you did over the past day, week or month that made you feel proud of yourself. In your mind's eye, see yourself doing these things. Perhaps focus on how hard you worked, or how well you performed, how you overcame something, made a tough choice or pleasantly surprised yourself in a difficult situation.

5 Now, notice how your body feels — is it lighter, and your breathing comes more easily? Perhaps easing your mental tension eased some of your physical symptoms, too. Take a moment to really absorb and feel any lingering pleasant sensations.

6 Next, think of a goal you're working toward. If none immediately comes to mind, reframe whatever you envy — a job, a child, an exotic vacation — as something you yearn for in your own life. Think about the action steps you would need to take to manifest your yearning.

Philadelphia Housing Authority
Housing Choice Voucher Program Waitlist Update

The Philadelphia Housing Authority is conducting its annual waitlist update for the Housing Choice Voucher Program (formerly known as Section 8).

Applicants who are still interested in the program must update their information with the Agency by Friday, March 6, 2015 or they will be removed from the waitlist.

To update your information:

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Jimmy Choos could be your answer to back pain

Walk better.
Why you should write yourself a prescription for high heels.

Fashion Week saw towering models look even more imposing by putting them on foot-size pedestals. But when it comes to high-heel shoes, they shouldn't be confined to the catwalk.

"My advice to any woman would be to stand up straight and wear high heels," says spine surgeon Dr. Alfred O. Bonati. "I think that is probably the best exercise women can have."

Here's why: Walking essentially on tiptoes is an exercise that strengthens your feet over time. The elevation changes your gait because you're forced to hold your knees and back straight, which takes the impact off your spine.

Flat shoes may only seem more comfortable in the short term. "When you walk with flat shoes, you go heel first, and that pressure goes directly from the heel to the back of the leg up to the back," he says.

Tall women, who tend to wear flat shoes all the time, often complain of having a lot of back pain. But shorter women (up to 5'6") tend to walk around in high heels from an early age. "They develop a fantastic sexy walk, a bounce to their walk, because what they are doing is they are using the knee, reducing the impact on the back," he explains. High heels also tend to lead to hip-swaying, which cuts down on stress for the pelvis and sacroiliac joint, located just above the tailbone.

Bonati recommends a minimum 3-inch heel, "though 4-5 inches is the most effective." And save up for brand-name shoes. "You cannot just have high shoes from a mediocre builder because what happens is the arch support is going to collapse, the pressure is going to be all on the heel and you're going to develop a heel spur or damage the metatarsals."

And yes, he has a recommendation: Jimmy Choos. "It's not only a beautiful shoe — it fits like a glove."

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Walking in them may take some practice, but heels are worth it. / GETTY IMAGES

Better sleep

One habit to improve your Z's

If you're trying to get better sleep, conventional wisdom has just been unseated by meditation.

Short of prescriptions, the recommendations for getting quality sleep have long been things like setting a bedtime routine and keeping the TV out of the bedroom. But a new study just released by the University of Southern California in Los Angeles puts a traditional program for changing poor sleep habits up against one where participants were trained in a mindful meditation practice.

Though the study was small, involving 49 people with disturbed sleep patterns, Dr. David S. Black and his team found that those taught meditation techniques improved their sleep by 27 percent, while the better bedtime routine group only showed an 11 percent rise in sleep quality. The meditation group also showed improvement in secondary symptoms like insomnia, depression and fatigue severity. Both groups saw comparable, moderate declines in anxiety, stress and inflammation.

Quality shut-eye is important for health. / ISTOCK

Sleep disturbances are estimated to affect half of all Americans over age 55 and are associated with higher levels of fatigue, mood problems like depression and a general lower quality of life.

Another study last week found an additional benefit of meditation: It helped stall age-related decline in brain function. EK

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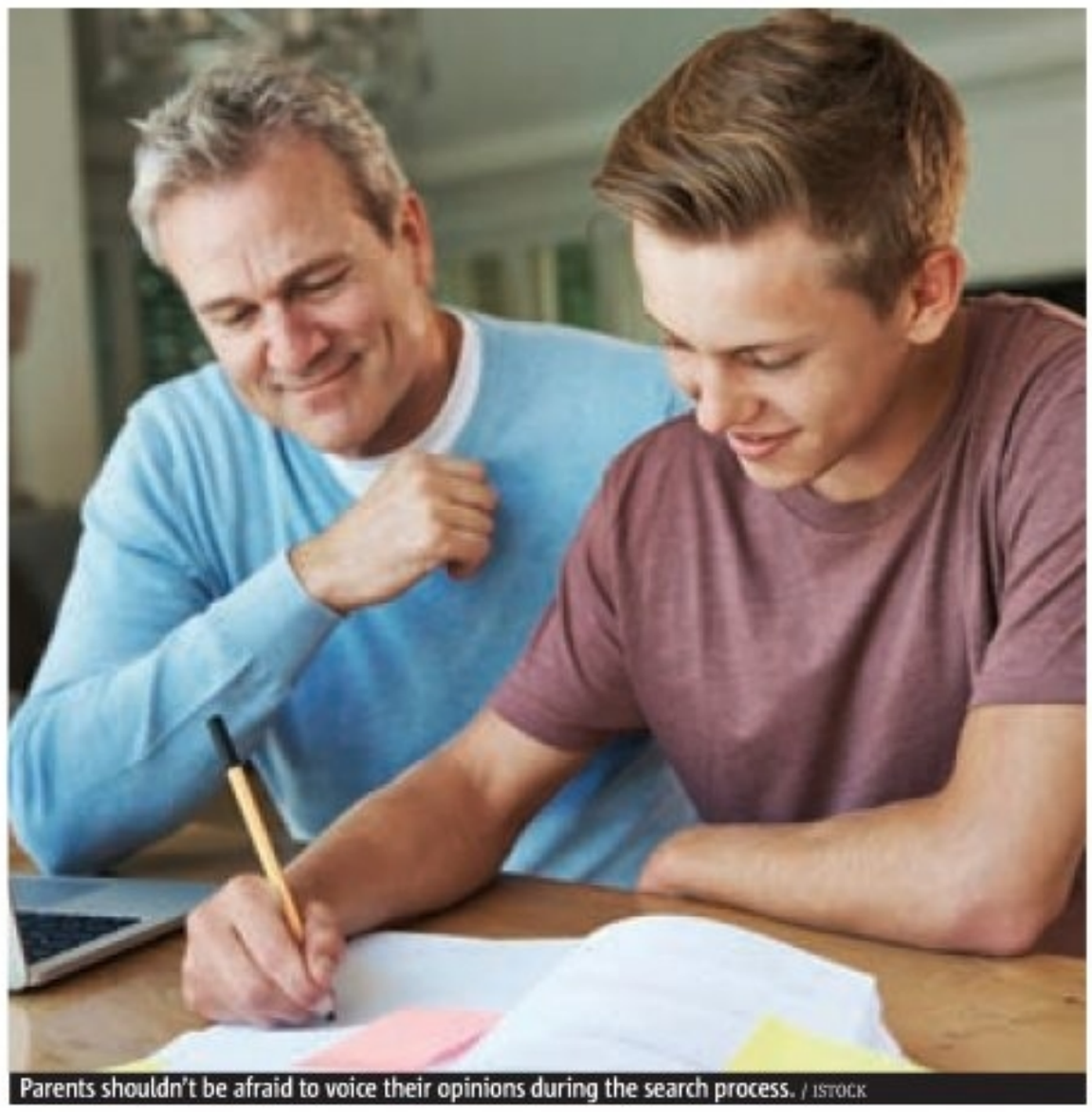

Parents shouldn't be afraid to voice their opinions during the search process. / ISTOCK

How parents can help their child pick the right college

Choices. One former college administrator explains how to steer kids in the right direction.

College hopefuls across the country will be on edge for the next few weeks as they start to weigh their options.

As students go through their checklists and start doing their final visits, one former college administrator says parental participation is key. "For a typical high school parent, mom and dad usually don't want to discourage their kids from going where they want to go," says Joe Schmoke, the founder of University Research and Review, a firm that helps guide students toward affordable colleges and universities. "But parents should be as objective as they can to encourage their kids to really think through this."

We asked Schmoke for his tips for families.

Real talk

Be honest

"For many students, the initial decision [of picking a school] is an emotional one," says Schmoke. "Then it dawns on them that they'll be paying for school for 40 years."

Parents, he says, should be up-front with their children about what they can afford. "You should be researching for the best value," he says. "Negotiate for financial aid, look at scholarships."

Don't be afraid to push back

"This is the first adult decision that 99 percent of these kids are going to make in their lives," notes Schmoke. "Challenge that decision. Ask 'why are you picking this school?'"

Talk to your child about goals

Second to costs, Schmoke says the second most common reason people transfer is because they change their field of study. "It's only natural that someone will change their major as their interests and personalities change," he says.

Schmoke also recommends that parents recommend their college-age children take a personality test to get a better idea of the kinds of careers they would thrive in. "Looking for schools is a frustrating time," he notes. "So these tests will let you figure out what it is that you are all about and what you like."

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John Legend urges education reform

The singer spoke at the fund's launch last week. / GETTY IMAGES

Arts. The singer says schools should be more creative.

John Legend thinks the American approach to education is overdue for a shake-up.

The singer-songwriter (and University of Pennsylvania grad) is teaming up with the philanthropy fund New Profit to launch Reimagine Learning, a new $30 million fund that will support educators, social entrepreneurs and education researchers.

Legend says his goal is to help bring creativity and art back into the classroom.

"We need to break with the long-held expectation that schools exist to mold and manage kids," the Grammy winner wrote in a piece for CNN.com. "In today's world, expecting every child's education to be the same, progress at the same rate and be measured against the same narrow standards of performances is not just outdated, it's a disservice to young people."

Vanessa Kirch, the founder and CEO of New Profit, said in a statement that she was motivated to start the fund after reflecting on the experiences she experienced in school as a dyslexic.

"Over the past 15 years, I have worked with leading organizations in education reform to try to redesign the system," says Kirch. But she says more has to be done for children with conditions like dyslexia.

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Milestone. La Salle University appoints first female president

Colleen M. Hanycz made Philadelphia history last week when she became the first woman (and first lay person) to become the president of La Salle University.

The Canadian-born Hanycz is currently the president of Brescia University College in Ontario, Canada. She will officially start at La Salle on July 10.

"It is really a tremendous opportunity for me," Hanycz says of her appointment last week. She is taking the helm of the 6,200 student university after the retirement of Brother Michael McGinniss last spring.

COLLEEN M. HANYCZ
LA SALLE

"This is a pivotal moment in La Salle's history," the chair of the university's board of trustees, William R. Sautter, says in a statement. "We are very pleased and excited to name Dr. Hanycz as the next president of La Salle University. She is an innovative academic leader with an impressive record as an agent of positive change." LG

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Attention to any party who may have attended to a
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HELD ON TUESDAY, 5-27-14, 9AM AT SUPERIOR MOVING & STORAGE, INC.
5101 UNRUH AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19135

We would like to recover all or part of the property belonging to ***Jackie Hirsch****. If you have any information and/or knowledge of the purchase of this property, Please contact 646-309-5826, by text or phone. Thank you.*

Household and Art Studio Contents included items such as: bedding, cookware, black sofa, beds, metal storage rack, books & literature, wrought-iron furniture & fixtures, unusual antique wooden bowl, large-scale photographs, drawings and paintings.

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The Public sale or other disposition of the following property will take place (unless otherwise withdrawn) via an on-line auction at **www.storagetreasures.com** on **March 2, 2015** beginning at approximately **12:00pm** and concluding on **March 16, 2015** at approximately **12:00pm**. This Public Sale will result in the goods being sold to the highest bidder. Certain terms and conditions apply.

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ROTHMAN INSTITUTE

An Olympian's guide to staying focused at work

Motivation. A gold medalist explains how he stayed in the zone.

On the ice in Vancouver in 2010. / TORONTO STAR/GETTY IMAGES

Olympian Evan Lysacek is quick to say that he was never the best skater on the ice.

"I felt that I was never as naturally talented or, overall, as good as my competitors," he says. "But I felt that if I could outwork them, I could outperform them."

We caught up with the skater at Deloitte's Road Show with Team USA and asked for some career tips.

Don't let anxiety derail you

Lysacek has often spoken of struggling with nerves. "As much as I can bring the preparation in to manage the stress and anxiety, I do it," he tells us.

Keep your eyes on the prize

Working toward a goal often means you give up other things, he notes. Remember to look at the big picture as much as possible. "It's an abnormal life," he admits. "But I'm sure that there are a lot of fields where that same sacrifice and discipline come in."

Flexibility

Be willing to change course

Lysacek recently started embarking on a new career in real estate. "I'm learning a new industry and taking on as much responsibility as I can," he says. "And I'm just trying to bring a lot of the ideals that I learned in my first chapter into this."

He's also getting ready for a skating tour in March while getting used to his new career. "I'm thinking about contracts and leasing while also trying to think about skating technique," he says.

LAKSHMI GANDHI
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lakshmi.gandhi@metro.us

HOW PERSONAL WEBSITES TRANSLATE INTO CAREER SUCCESS

Employers are searching for information about you online, whether you like it or not. If they don't find you, or something positive about you, then you will get passed over for the next candidate that pops up. More and more, employers are turning to the Internet in order to fill positions in their workforce because it's easy, they can conduct background checks, and they are looking for candidates with strong tech skills.

In a new study by branded.me and .ME Registry, they found that 84 percent of professionals have received benefits from having a personal website and 63 percent said websites are more valuable than resumes. A personal website will become more important over the next five years. Here are a few tips, based on the research, that will help you craft a strong website that employers will take notice of.

You are what you type. / ISTOCK

Jobs Advice

DAN SCHAWBEL

DANSCHAWBEL.COM

Dan Schawbel is a workplace expert, keynote speaker, and author of the New York Times best-selling book Promote Yourself: The New Rules For Career Success.

Tips

1 Purchase your own domain name. Having your own name as a domain name (yourfullname.com or .net or .me) is extremely valuable because it will rank higher for your name in Google.

2 Add various elements to your website. Your website should showcase your unique talents and abilities as well as your personal interests and motives.

3 Create a blog as part of your website. Blogs enable you to express your views on topics of your choice, and by producing blog posts, your website will rank higher in Google.

4 Use business cards. The traditional forms of marketing are still valuable. Remember to use them.

Horoscope

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20
Spending time with people who don't appreciate you or are overly demanding will be tiresome and counterproductive.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20
You will be right on target. Your high energy level will put you in a very competitive position. Set your goals and don't stop.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21
Choose your words carefully. Someone will try to put a negative spin on what you have to say. If you are precise, your remarks cannot be used against you.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20
Business deals holdings will offer a profit. Do your research and you will discover how you can turn something you are good at into additional income.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22
Reduce stress by occupying your mind. Romance is looking up. Don't waste your time on someone who treats you poorly.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22
Your plans will fall apart if you share your ideas with an untrustworthy person. Be discreet about what you are up to.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22
An ingenious project will pave the way to an opportunity. You will be surprised to discover who has been following your progress.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Group endeavors will not bring the results you want. Fine-tune the details of a project you can pursue alone if you want to gain the upper hand.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 If you are uncertain or confused, ask direct questions. Don't be willing to accept incomplete information. Get the facts.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Once your co-workers see how determined you are, they will want to help. Putting in a stellar performance will attract attention.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Your ideas are unique and inspired, and they should be shared. The reaction you receive will give you valuable input.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Someone you want to spend more time with will be intimidated by your bold actions. Step back and let a partnership develop naturally. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

4			7					1
	2		1			6		
	7	8	2			5		
6			4					
9	1		5		2		6	7
					8			2
		6			1	9	4	
		1			5		2	
5					4			8

			1					3
	4			7		2	8	
7					5		1	6
2				1			4	
8			4		6			7
	7			8				5
4	8		3					1
	5	7		6			3	
3					8			

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Get a STEM job yourself

'Yo, Hollywood, We need more girls in STEM' (Metro, Feb. 19) Hey, Jenna Busch, Instead of dressing up like bleached Barbie with a ray gun for your cute little "a dumb girl clearly wrote this" article, why don't you try DOING SOMETHING. Instead of complaining about girls not having opportunity, girls being judged, girls not having toys geared to them, girls not being encouraged in schools for meaningful careers, why don't you try helping them? Why don't you start a campaign, volunteer, join an all-girl after-school program, create a new toy? Oh, no, wait, the much more intelligent way to show there is any truth to what you say is to whine and complain. Teach future generations of women that they can be and do ANYTHING they want without a toy to lead them down the path! People like YOU are the reason WOMEN are held back!
JENN CLARK, VIA EMAIL

Beagles are a class act

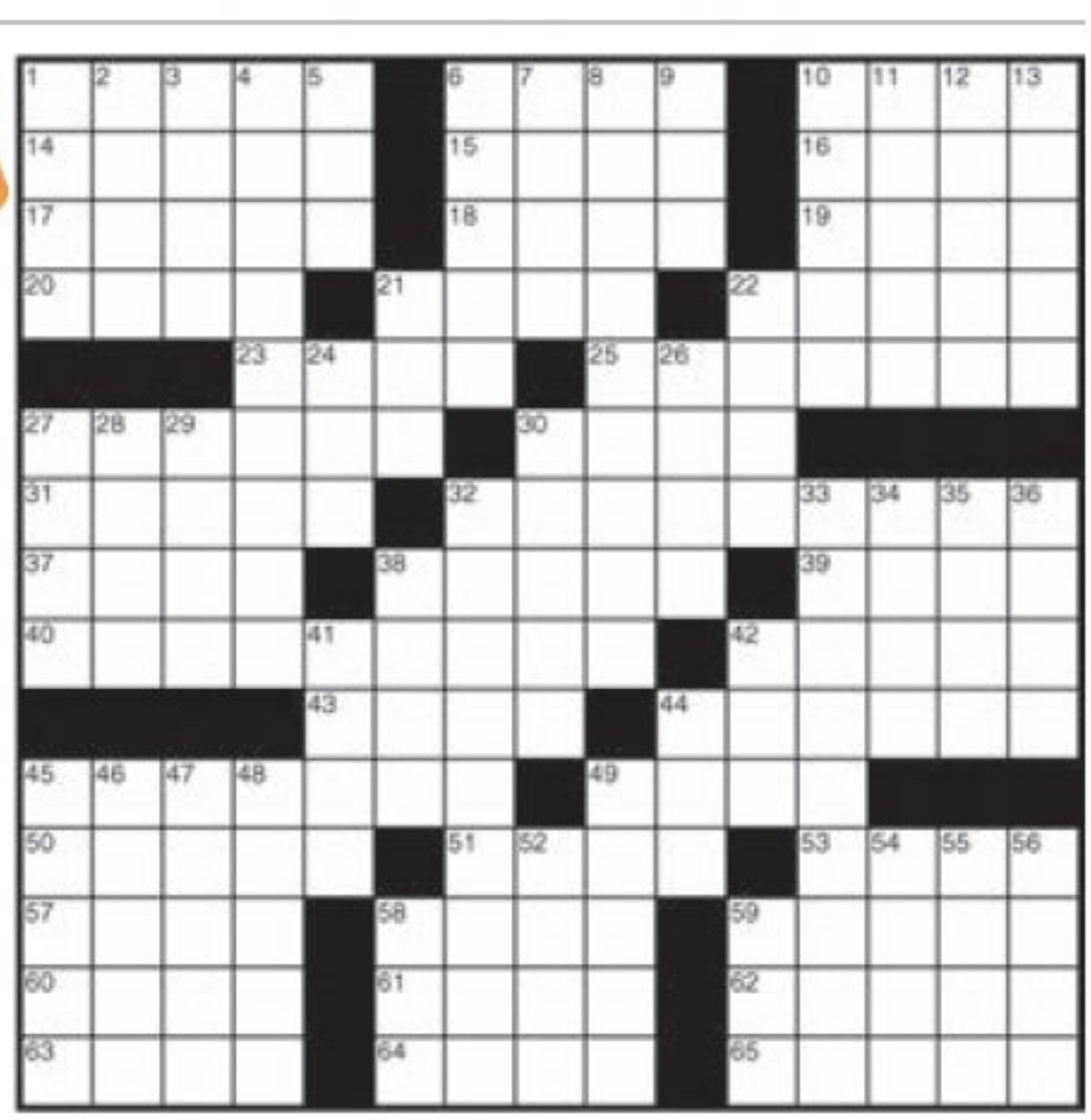
Re: "Three reasons a beagle may not be for you' (Metro, Feb. 20-22) While I agree that an apartment in the city may not be the best place for a beagle, I totally disagree with the rest of your article. I had a beagle when I was a small child. His name was Mr. Boy and he was a gift to my Dad when I was born. This dog as well as other beagles are rather docile, independent little dogs.
MARIA C. CIANCIO, VIA EMAIL

Visit us online at **Metro.us.**
Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.

Crossword

Across
1 Mideast nation
6 Stole
10 Green mineral
14 Kitchen emanation
15 Jean Auel heroine
16 Gossip tidbit
17 North Dakota city
18 Fence part
19 Sotto —
20 A word to kitty
21 Cowboy – Autry
22 It's above baritone
23 Egyptian goddess
25 Greenhouse
27 Role players
30 Irene of "Fame"
31 Allows to borrow
32 Town opposite Brownsville
37 Essay byline
38 Bright star in Orion
39 Is grief-stricken
40 Tough-skinned
42 Gravy spot
43 With skill
44 Throngs
45 Chamomile infusion (2 wds.)
49 Maui dance
50 Outback minerals
51 Coffee source
53 Free ticket
57 Bossa —
58 Revenuers
59 Caesar's river
60 New singles
61 Flair
62 Kind of hole
63 Auld lang —
64 Cellar, briefly
65 Short of cash

Down
1 Tuberous roots
2 Novelist — Ambler
3 Actress — Freeman
4 Full of feeling
5 Cole who was "King"
6 Goods for sale
7 Meg or Nolan
8 At odds
9 Good buddy
10 Kids around
11 Repair a wrong
12 Interior design
13 Common abrasive
21 KP workers
22 Bloke's streetcar
24 Almost grads
26 Europe-Asia range
27 Baldwin or Guinness
28 Fizzy drink
29 Donkey pin-on
30 Hard to pin down
32 Tags incorrectly
33 Exclude from society
34 Line on a map
35 Drama prize
36 FICA numbers
38 Bumpkin
41 Dobbin's dinner
42 Sun, in Acapulco
44 Rome wrecker
45 Sharpens
46 Powerful adhesive
47 Black bird
48 Nonchalant
49 Didn't yet
52 Red-waxed cheese
54 Bassoon cousin
55 Fix
56 Fly, to a spider
58 Pisces mo.
59 Unit of weight



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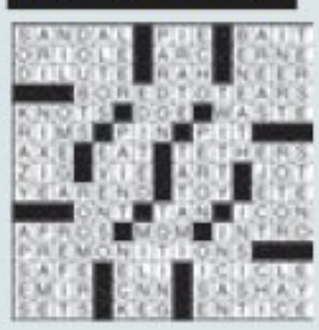

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3 SPORTS

Flyers 3, Capitals 2

Giroux, Del Zotto lift Philly

The Flyers are within striking distance of the eighth playoff spot in the East after their second straight win (in as many days). Claude Giroux had a goal and an assist while Michael Del Zotto blasted a third-period shot by Washington's Braden Holtby to break a 2-all deadlock and lift the Flyers 3-2 over the Caps. Philly has a much-needed day off Monday before traveling to Carolina to face the Canes on Tuesday.

Will free agents fix Eagles' secondary?

NFL. The draft offers the Eagles better options at cornerback and safety than free agency does.

When the 2014 season ended, most Eagles fans were possessed with the desire to run out and stock defensive backs like canned goods prior to Y2K. It's understandable with names like Darrelle Revis, Byron Maxwell and Devin McCourty as tempting free agent options.

Those names come with big price tags, as did some others: Nnamdi Asomugha, Cary Williams.

If Williams is an Eagle next season, he will count $8 million against the salary cap. His counterpart, Bradley Fletcher, who almost certainly won't be an Eagle next year, counted $3.6 million against the cap this year.

Since 2003, the Eagles have taken a total of four defensive backs in the first three rounds of the draft, none in the first round. In 2003 their first three selections were Lito Sheppard, Michael Lewis and Sheldon Brown. Perhaps that's what turned them off it.

Will Devin McCourty be the next high-profile signing in the Eagles secondary? / GETTY IMAGES

Even Andy Reid's much disregarded linebacker position saw more love. Is it any surprise the franchise is where it is today?

With a relatively solid team at all other positions, it's time for the Eagles to go all in on the secondary.

With deals still likely pending to Jeremy Maclin and Nick Foles, instead of dishing out a sizable contract to a free agent, the Eagles may possibly look into taking one of the alluring cornerback candidates in the draft with their No. 20 pick (top among these is LSU's Jalen Collins). The team could also take a serviceable defensive back at pick No. 54.

It's a terrible year for safeties, both in the draft and free agency, but McCourty seems like the best option available. And we can all rest assured he didn't only look good because he was playing next to Patrick Chung.

Maxwell is another reasonable signing for the Birds. His 2014 cap number was $670,000. It's low because he was a recent draft pick by Seattle, and not an expensive free agent signing — coincidentally like every other member of the Seahawks elite secondary. But will Maxwell, who earned his stripes playing on the best secondary in football, become another Chung with the Eagles lackluster defensive backfield?

Other free agents

Here's a look into the bargain bin of secondary free agent options:

- Seahawks and Oregon alumnus Walter Thurmond signed for $3 million with the Giants on a one year deal last season. After getting injured in the second game and missing the season, the cornerback's value probably hasn't appreciated.
- Jeromy Miles moved from special teams standout to starting safety for the Ravens last season, and locked down the position. He'll likely be allowed to move on because the team is tied to recent draft picks.

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As low as $209/*Month
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As low as $199/*Month
2007 Cadillac DeVille DTS
Dual Climate Control, Heated Leather Seats, V8
As low as $199/*Month
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LT
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$12,900, $242/Month

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CD/MP3, AWD, Interior Air Filtration, Climate Control, Cruise Control, Reclining Rear Seats, Premium Cloth Seats
$0 Down
$12,900, $242/Month

2013 BUICK VERANO
CD/MP3, Satellite Radio, Rear View Camera, Leather, Heated Seats, Climate Control, Alloy Wheels, Bluetooth
Like New!
$13,900, $258/Month

2011 CADILLAC DTS LUXURY
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$0 Down
$14,900, $274/Month

2012 NISSAN SENTRA 2.0 SR
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4WD
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$19,900, $356/Month

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XLT
$21,900, $388/Month

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Position players report: Sizing up the Phillies' everyday players

MLB. Everything has to go right, and then some, for the Phillies to compete in 2015.

Pitchers and catchers reported last week to Clearwater, Florida. The entire team will begin workouts and practices Monday. Here's a brief look at each position as spring training games inch ever closer.

1B Ryan Howard
Manager Ryne Sandberg nailed it by noting that it's Howard's job to lose. First off, there is no other real option. It's obvious the organization doesn't believe in Darin Ruf. There's no point starting the season with Maikel Franco — who is an excellent third baseman — at first, when he could use more time in the minors. If you're going to pay Howard, let the Big Piece swing away. No team will eat even a portion of his contract. Just hope that Howard is healthy and that he views this as a season in which he can prove everyone wrong and then the Phillies can possibly trade him in July.

2B Chase Utley
Give Utley a break, literally. The aging former superstar started 155 games last season. No wonder he's worn down. If the Phillies can trust a sub and let Utley start 130 games, there could be some serious production from the lone member of the old core, who appears to be a lock to stay.

SS Freddy Galvis
Fans will certainly miss Jimmy Rollins' bat. If you had issues with Rollins batting average, just wait for Galvis, who has a superb glove is superb is a liability at the plate.

For all their offensive deficiencies, the Phillies still boast one of the top second basemen in the game. / GETTY IMAGES

3B Cody Asche
Expect Asche to have half of a season to show signs of life, both defensively and offensively, at the hot corner. But it's only a matter of time until Maikel Franco plays third for the big club.

RF Domonic Brown
Let Brown have a full season in right — there's no young phenom who is screaming to be called up. Brown played a better right than left. He has a gun for an arm but his routes are awful and he makes questionable decisions. Perhaps Charlie Manuel can once again help Brown produce at the plate.

CF Ben Revere
If this team had some pop, Revere would be a nice piece. Revere isn't the problem. He hits for average, steals bases and is a good clubhouse guy. Sure, Revere needs to play a better center. If Revere can run better routes, there's hope for the speedster, who will have to pick it up considering who is flanking him.

LF Grady Sizemore
Sizemore played decently during his second-half stretch He could be moderately productive. It's too bad the Phillies didn't play Ruf every day after Aug. 1 when postseason hopes were all but mathematically over. Could Ruf, who is one of the few Phillies who can work a count, be an everyday player? We may never know.

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MLB. Hamels drama shows no sign of stopping as camp continues

The turning point for Cole Hamels with the media was after his "I can't wait for it to end. It's been mentally draining" lines during the 2009 World Series was taken out of context.

Hamels went on to note that he hoped to start a Game 7 of that series after a disappointing performance in Game 3. There was no Game 7 in the series since Yankees won in six, and Hamels has been a bit of an enigma with the media ever since.

The Phillies homegrown ace will usually only meet the press every five days, and that always isn't so. And then sometimes Hamels surprises the media with accessibility.

Hamels took many aback when he told USA Today that winning is "not going to happen here."

Cliff Lee, who aced his media relations course, followed Hamels, like the Phillies hope in the rotation,

with optimism.

Even the Phillies loosest canon, Jonathan Papelbon, said that anything can happen. Can the Phillies, who many pundits and oddsmakers view as the worst team in baseball, shock the world? Probably not, but Hamels, who is signed off on a $144 million deal, has made this awkward camp even more uncomfortable.

"I don't have a problem with Cole," GM Ruben Amaro told USA Today. "But maybe he could have chosen his words a little differently."

Yes, it's a very different spring for the Phillies, who are in a odd position: an expensive team with little hope. But everyone is tied for first at the moment.

What will happen during the course of the next four weeks? Will Hamels be able to hold his tongue? Stay tuned.

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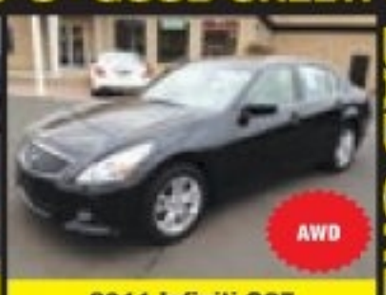
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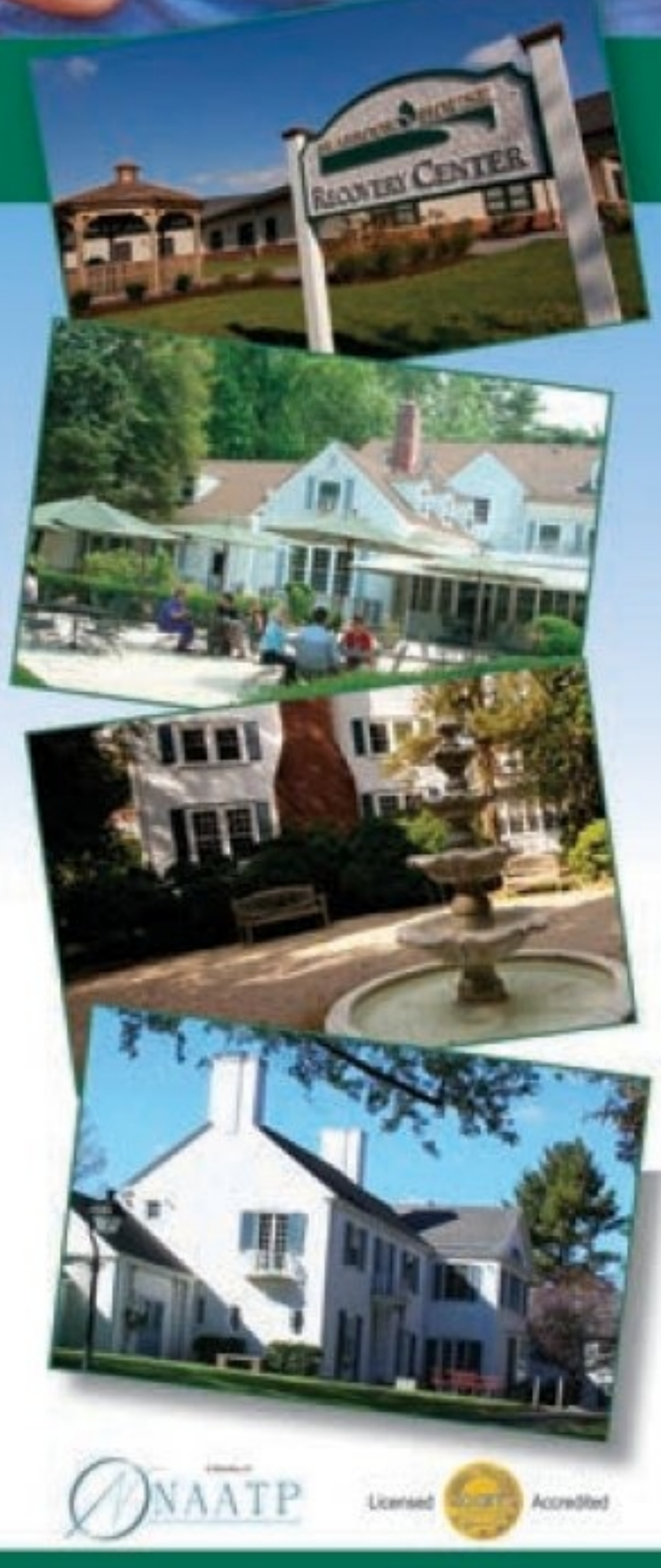

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